

RESOURCES DECISION MEETING

RECORD OF DECISIONS taken by the Cabinet Member for Resources, Councillor Hugh Mason, at his decision meeting held on Thursday, 2 October 2008 at 2.00pm in The Civic Offices, Portsmouth.

Councillor Luke Stubbs, opposition spokesperson for the Conservatives, officers, members of the public and press were welcomed to the meeting by Councillor Mason.

5. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

6. Declaration of Members' Interests in Accordance with Standing Order 14 (AI 1)

Councillor Hugh Mason stated that he had a personal and non prejudicial interest in that he was a trustee of several charities but that none were listed in Appendix 2 of the report.

7. Voluntary & Community Sector Grants Review (AI 2)

Mandy Lindley and Delyth Horsley introduced the report and stated that its purpose was to make recommendations prior to the commencement of the annual grant programme for 2009/10 following the review of grants to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). They added that this was with a view to continuing to support an environment for a thriving third sector in the city.

Councillor Luke Stubbs stated that this was a good report and that he believed it demonstrated that the service was moving in the right direction.

DECISIONS:

- HDCE (1) That the council should not advertise an open-for-all grants programme for 2009-10, but organisations who are currently receiving grant funding should be invited to re-apply.
- HDCE (2) That the council should, in the future, continue to run a small grants programme for "seed-corn" for new initiatives and "one-off" funding. The council should also explore whether other LSP partners would like to join in creating a partnership funding programme for this.
- HDCE (3) That the council should work with procurement and grants officers in departments to transfer long term grant funding arrangements of over £10,000 a year for three years' duration into contracts, so giving greater stability of funding to the third sector.

HDCE (4) That the council should explore with IT the feasibility of designing an in-house database to collect data on the council's funding relationships with the sector. Alternatively, funding to purchase a database should be included in a capital bid for the modernisation of the democratic process and bring forward a report to the Cabinet Member at a future meeting.

HDCE (5) That a decision as to whether to tender for the infrastructure support service to help develop a thriving third sector should be made in January 2009. In the interim there should be discussion with Portsmouth Council for Community Service (PCCS) to determine their interest in and capacity to support the third sector with the public service delivery agenda, alongside other roles.

HDCE (6) That the council should consider alternatives to administering trusts in-house, with the exception of the Lord Mayor's Charity, and that a meeting should be set up with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HICWF) to explore this and the results reported back to the Cabinet Member at a future meeting.

HDCE (7) That funding should actively be sought for the renewal of the licence for the funding database, Portsmouth4Community in April 2009, (cost still to be negotiated) as a means to enabling third sector organisations and community groups to identify alternative sources of funding.

8. Budget Monitoring 2008/09 – Revenue Cash Limit and Capital Programme (AI 3)

The Cabinet Member for Resources agreed to this report being submitted with less than the statutory notice because the report was not ready at the time of despatch of the agenda. The Cabinet Member considered it contained information which should be in the public domain without waiting until the next scheduled meeting.

Sue Page introduced the report.

Mr Mark Austin made a deputation on this item relating to his concerns about Customer First.

DECISIONS:

HFS (1) That the position regarding the revenue forecast for 2008/09 set out in the report be noted and progress towards meeting the shortfall be reported to the next meeting.

(2) The Cabinet Member noted the forecast capital programme.

HFS **(3) That a breakdown of the budget relating to Customer First be forwarded to the Cabinet Member.**

The meeting closed at 2.30pm.

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Councillor Hugh Mason
Cabinet Member for Resources